AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Applicant is submitting a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts or double brackets. Please amend the claims as listed below:

1. (Currently Amended) A beverage filter cartridge comprising:

~~an impermeable cup-shaped~~ a container having a ~~substantially flat~~ ~~first~~ container bottom and a ~~first~~ container side wall ~~diverging~~ extending upwardly from said ~~first~~ container bottom to a ~~collar surrounding a~~ top opening;

a filter element having a ~~substantially flat~~ ~~second~~ filter bottom and a ~~second~~ filter side wall ~~diverging~~ extending upwardly from said ~~second~~ filter bottom ~~to an upper rim~~, said filter element being received in said container and ~~with said second bottom spaced both inwardly from said first side wall and vertically from said first bottom, and with said upper rim~~ joined at a peripheral juncture to the interior of said ~~first~~ container side wall, the interior of said container thus being subdivided by said filter element into a first chamber accessible via said top opening, and a second chamber ~~disposed between said first and second bottoms, said second side wall coacting with the interior of said first side wall to define~~ , wherein pleats or flutes in said filter side wall form exit channels leading ~~from said peripheral juncture~~ to said second chamber, and said exit channels are located between said container side wall and said filter side wall;

a beverage medium received in said first chamber via said top opening; and

~~an impermeable~~ a cover ~~sealed to said collar and~~ closing said top opening, said cover being piercable to admit liquid into said first chamber for ~~impulsion~~ contact with said beverage medium to produce a beverage, said filter element being permeable to accommodate the flow therethrough of said beverage for delivery via said exit channels to said second chamber, and said ~~first~~ container bottom being piercable to accommodate an outflow of said beverage from said cartridge.

2. (Currently Amended) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 1 wherein said ~~first~~ container and ~~second~~ filter bottom are substantially parallel.

3. (Currently Amended) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 1 wherein said exit channels are defined only by flutes in said ~~second~~ filter side wall.

4. (Currently Amended) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 1 wherein said exit channels are defined only by pleats in said ~~second~~ filter side wall.

5. (Currently Amended) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 1 wherein said ~~second~~ filter side wall extends downwardly from said peripheral juncture and away from said ~~first~~ container side wall at an angle of less than about 1 degree.

6. (Currently Amended) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 5 wherein said angle is between about 0.50 to 0.90 degrees.

7. (Currently Amended) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ a height of said first chamber ~~is~~ measured between said ~~second~~ filter bottom ~~bottoms~~ and said cover is between about 75 to 80% of ~~the~~ a height of ~~the~~ an interior of said cartridge as measured between said ~~first~~ container bottom and said cover.

8. (Currently Amended) The beverage filter cartridge of claim [[4]] 1 wherein said exit channels increase in width from a minimum adjacent said peripheral juncture to a maximum adjacent said filter bottom ~~at said second chamber~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ a permeability of a lower region of said filter element is reduced in comparison to ~~the~~ a permeability of an upper region thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 9 wherein said reduced permeability is achieved by increasing ~~the~~ a thickness of said filter element in said lower region.

11. (Currently Amended) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 10 wherein said increased thickness is achieved by lining the lower region of said filter element with ~~a cup-shaped~~ an insert ~~of the same or like filter material~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A beverage filter cartridge comprising:

a ~~cup-shaped outer~~ container having a side wall and a bottom; ~~and~~

a ~~cup-shaped~~ filter element having a side wall and a bottom, said filter element being arranged to subdivide the interior of said container into a first chamber inside said filter element and a second chamber located ~~between the bottom of~~ outside said filter element ~~and the bottom of said container~~, said filter element ~~having an upper rim~~ being joined to the container side wall at a peripheral juncture, and said filter sidewall having corrugations, having at least a portion that is permeable, and being arranged so that at least a portion of said filter side wall is spaced inwardly from and out of contact with said container side wall; and

a cover enclosing at least a portion of the first chamber ~~exterior channels that face said container side wall and that lead downwardly from said peripheral juncture to said second chamber~~.

13. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 12, wherein said container and filter bottoms are substantially parallel.

14. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 12, wherein said corrugations form exit channels in said filter side wall.

15. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 12, wherein said filter side wall extends downwardly from said peripheral juncture and away from said container side wall at an angle of less than about 1 degree.

16. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 15, wherein said angle is between about 0.50 to 0.90 degrees.

17. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 12, wherein a height of said first chamber measured between said filter bottom and said cover is between about 75 to 80% of a height of an interior of said cartridge as measured between said container bottom and said cover.

18. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 12, wherein said corrugations increase in width from a minimum adjacent said peripheral juncture to a maximum adjacent said filter bottom.

19. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 12, wherein a permeability of a lower region of said filter element is reduced in comparison to a permeability of an upper region thereof.

20. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 19 wherein said reduced permeability is achieved by increasing a thickness of said filter element in said lower region.

21. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 20 wherein said increased thickness is achieved by lining the lower region of said filter element with an insert.

22. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 12, wherein a majority of the filter side wall is spaced inwardly from and out of contact with the container side wall.

23. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 12, wherein said container is impermeable and said cover is impermeable.

24. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 12, wherein said filter bottom is vertically spaced from the container bottom.

25. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 12, wherein said corrugations form exit channels located between said container side wall and said filter side wall.

26. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 25, wherein said exit channels lead downwardly to said second chamber.

27. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 12, wherein said container has a frustoconical shape.

28. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 12, wherein said container has a collar surrounding said top opening, and said cover is sealed to said collar.

29. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 12, wherein said filter element includes an upper rim, and said filter element is joined to the container at the upper rim.

30. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 12, wherein the corrugations form channels for flow of liquid exiting from the first chamber at the filter side wall.

31. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 12, wherein said container and filter side walls coact to form channels for flow of liquid exiting from the first chamber.

32. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 12, wherein said corrugations are defined by flutes in said filter side wall.

33. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 12, wherein said corrugations are defined by pleats in said filter side wall.

34. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 12, wherein the cover and the container are piercable when the cartridge is used to form a beverage.

35. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 12, in combination with a beverage forming system that is adapted to pierce the cover, inject heated liquid into the first chamber, and pierce the container to allow beverage to exit the second chamber.

36. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 1, wherein a majority of the filter side wall is spaced inwardly from and out of contact with the container side wall.

37. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 1, wherein said container is impermeable and said cover is impermeable.

38. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 1, wherein said filter bottom is vertically spaced from the container bottom.

39. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 1, wherein said container has a frustoconical shape.

40. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 1, wherein said container has a collar surrounding said top opening, and said cover is sealed to said collar.

41. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 1, wherein said filter element includes an upper rim, and said filter element is joined to the container at the upper rim.

42. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 1, wherein the cover and the container are piercable when the cartridge is used to form a beverage.

43. (New) The beverage filter cartridge of claim 1, in combination with a beverage forming system that is adapted to pierce the cover, inject heated liquid into the first chamber, and pierce the container to allow beverage to exit the second chamber.

44. (New) A beverage filter cartridge comprising:

a container having a side wall and a bottom;

a filter element having a side wall and a bottom, said filter element being arranged to subdivide the interior of said container into a first chamber inside said filter element and a second chamber located outside said filter element, said filter element being joined to the container side wall at a peripheral juncture, and said filter sidewall having corrugations and being arranged so that at least a portion of said filter side wall is spaced inwardly from and out of contact with said container side wall; and

a cover enclosing at least a portion of the first chamber.